

NEWS

For Immediate Release

United States
Department
of Agriculture

Forest Service

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FIRE RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT FOR THE KIOWA AND RITA BLANCA NATIONAL GRASSLANDS BEGINNING THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2006

CLAYTON, NM, January 12, 2006 - The Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands will implement fire restrictions starting at 8:00 am Thursday, January 19, 2006. Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands District Ranger Nancy Walls explained, "With the continued dry, warm and windy conditions, we feel it is necessary to take these precautions." The Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands are located in the northeastern part of New Mexico near Clayton.

All areas on the Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands will be under the following fire restrictions:

The following restrictions apply to the Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal broiler, coal or wood stove **are prohibited.**
- Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters meeting safety specifications are allowed anywhere on the Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands.

Smoking Restrictions:

- Smoking is **prohibited**, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.
- As always, fireworks are prohibited on all national grasslands.

Please contact Mark Chavez at the Cibola National Forest Supervisor's office (505) 346-3900 or Nancy Walls at the Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands (505) 374-9652, for additional information.

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